

Christian Barn  
East side of County Trunk EM,  
1-1/2 miles north of State Route 109  
Watertown Vicinity, Lebanon Township  
Dodge County  
Wisconsin

HABS No. WIS-148

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED SCALE OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

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## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### CHRISTIAN BARN

Location: East side of County Trunk EM, 1-1/2 miles north of State Route 109, Lebanon Township, Watertown Vicinity, Dodge County, Wisconsin.

Present Owner: Clarence Christian, Route 2, Watertown, Wisconsin.

Present Occupant of Farm: Clarence Christian.

Present Use: Barn.

Brief Statement of Significance: This barn is one of few remaining examples of German half-timber (Fachwerkbau) construction applied to farm outbuildings. An unusual feature is the second story overhang.

### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: Alexander Campbell, until 1848 (acquired property from U.S., 1844); Ludwig Mielenz and Michael Woltmann, until 1851; Ludwig Mielenz until 1893; Emma Hilbert, until 1928; John Christian, until 1944; Clarence Christian, until present.
- B. Date of erection: Around 1850 according to family tradition.
- C. Builder: Probably Ludwig Mielenz which is inferred from his ownership of the property from 1848 until 1893.
- D. Notes on alterations and additions: None except incidental rehabilitations.
- E. Sources
  1. Property Abstract of Clarence Christian, in his possession.
  2. Interview with Mrs. Clarence Christian, Route 2, Watertown, Wisconsin.

### PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

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A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This barn is of typical German half-timber construction with a wood covered loft or second story that overhangs on one side.
2. Condition of fabric: Neglected but still in active use.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 15' x 40'.
2. Foundations: Local fieldstone.
3. Wall construction: Heavy frame of hand-hewn white oak with brick nogging of buff Waterford brick, lower story; vertical boards and battens, loft or second story.
4. Chimneys: None.
5. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Board and batten barn-type.
  - b. Windows: Fixed sash of 6-8" x 10" lights.
6. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Gabled, wood shingles.
  - b. Framing: 5" x 5" flattened log rafters, 3' o.c. with tie-beams.
  - c. Eaves: Boxed.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor plans: The first floor consists of one large and one small room separated by frame and brick partition similar to the outside wall. The hayloft is open.
2. Stairways: Access to loft is by an exterior ladder.
3. Flooring: Wood flooring over wood joists laid directly on foundation walls and horizontal framing members. Second floor joists project to form 3'-0" overhang on the south side.

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4. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior walls on first floor are plastered between framing members. Ceilings, loft, etc., are unfinished.
  5. Doorways and doors: None.
  6. Hardware: Modern service type.
  7. Lighting: None.
  8. Heating: None.
- D. General setting and orientation: Service building in typical Wisconsin farm group. Main axis, east and west.

Prepared by Henry C. Edwards, Architect  
National Park Service - August 1960